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August 26, 2004 Date of Deposit

Gustavo Siller, Jr., Reg., No. 32,305

Name of Applicant, Assignee or

Registered Representative

Signature

Our Case No. 9281-3996 Client Reference No. N US00078

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Naoya Hasegawa et al.

Serial No. 09/901,438

Filing Date: July 9, 2001

For: EXCHANGE COUPLING FILM AND MAGNETORESISTIVE ELEMENT USING THE SAME

Examiner: Christopher R. Magee

Group Art Unit No. 2653

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant filed the above-identified application on July 9, 2001, but has not yet received a first Office Action. Please advise the undersigned attorney as to when a first Office Action is expected to issue on this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Gustavo Siller, Jr. Registration No. 32,305 Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 (312) 321-4200 TOPICS COD STATUS AVOLUTRY RECEIVED

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